Fat Blend

CA 4/05 CN 4/05

DESCRIPTION

This application is a continuation under 35USC 371 of PCT/EP98/08409 filed 12/22/1998.

The invention concerns a fat blend based on oils, fats and/or lecithins with polyunsaturated fatty acids, a dietetic or pharmaceutical composition containing this fat blend and the use of this fat blend or this dietetic or pharmaceutical composition.

It is well-known that the body is capable of endogenously synthesising certain saturated and monounsaturated fatty acids including stearic acid (C18-0) and oleic acid (C18-1w9). However the body is not capable of endogenously synthesising the polyunsaturated fatty acids linoleic acid (18-2w6) and alpha-linolenic acid (C18-3w3), necessary for it, so that these fatty acids must be supplied exogenously with the diet and hence are also described as essential fatty acids.

A great variety of longer-chain (C20 and C22) and higher desaturated fatty acids are then synthesised from these essential fatty acids in the human fatty acid metabolism by chain elongation and desaturation. The fatty acids which are derived from linoleic acid (C18-2w6) are referred to as the w6 family, while the w3 family is derived from alpha-linolenic acid. In English, these polyunsaturated fatty acids are also described as polyunsaturated fatty acids or PUFA. For more details of the descriptive code or nomenclature used in the present documents, the reader is referred to in "Lipid Analysis" by William W Christie, Pergamon Press 1973.

The said polyunsaturated fatty acids are structural components of all cell membranes of the body. A few specific fatty acids from the w3 and w6 family are of especial importance since special molecules are synthesised from them, which are collectively described as eicosanoids.

The collective term eicosanoids is now understood to mean an extremely diverse and complex mixture of physiologically highly active, hormone-like compounds, which are involved in a great variety of regulatory processes in the body. The eicosanoids are mainly derived from the w6- and w3-desaturated C20 precursor fatty acids dihomo-gamma-linolenic